



# PRESS RELEASE

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## WEST VIRGINIA HOG INVENTORY

**WEST VIRGINIA -- Inventory of all hogs and pigs** on December 1, 2005, was 8,000 head, down 20 percent from December 1, 2004. Of the 8,000 head, 2,000 were for breeding; unchanged from 2004. The breakdown of the remaining 6,000 market hogs and pigs was as follows: 2,000 head were under 60 pounds; 1,000 were from 60-119 pounds; 1,000 were from 120-179 pounds; and 2,000 were 180 pounds and over.

**Annual pig crop** totaled 14,700 head, 19 percent below the 2004 pig crop. Sows farrowing from December 2004 through November 2005 totaled 2,100 head, down 9 percent from the previous year. Pigs per litter averaged 7.00 pigs, down 12 percent from 2004, at 7.91 pigs.

**UNITED STATES -- Inventory of all hogs and pigs** on December 1, 2005 was 61.2 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2005.

**Breeding inventory**, at 6.01 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and last quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 55.2 million head, was up slightly from last year but down 1 percent from last quarter.

**The September-November 2005 U.S. pig crop**, at 26.1 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004 and up 2 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, unchanged from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the September-November 2005 period, compared to 8.96 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

**U.S. hog producers** intend to have 2.88 million sows farrow during the December 2005-February 2006 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in both 2005 and 2004. Intended farrowings for March-May 2006, at 2.89 million sows, are up slightly from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 38 percent from last year.

**Revisions** - All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2004 through September 2005 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, small adjustments of less than one-half of one percent were made to the June 2005 total inventory, September 2005 total inventory and to the March-May 2005 pig crop.

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